

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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LESSON FOR OCTOBER 31

THE BOY JOASH CROWNED KING.

LESSON TEXT—II Kings 11:1-12.

GOLDEN TEXT—The house of the wicked shall be overthrown; but the tent of the upright shall flourish.—Prov. 11:11, R. V.

This is a great and most intensely interesting boy's story. For thirty years two great heroes, Elijah and Elisha, fought against Baal. They stood up against kings and people, and fought for pure morals as the champions of Jehovah. Jehoshaphat, a good man, allowed his son to marry Jezebel's daughter and the nation reaped the results. The son of this union reigned over Judah but one year and was slain by Jehu, the destroyer of Ahab's dynasty. Athaliah, as daughter queen reigned for six years (See 2 Chron. 22). General Jehu wrought in the northern kingdom, hence the temporary escape of this child of Jezebel, the cursed queen.

1. Concealment, vv. 1-3. Jehoshaphat, the wife of Jehoram, the high priest in charge of the temple, is thought to be the daughter of Joram by another wife than Athaliah. She was the agent in God's hands of saving the boy's life and of the final extinguishment of the seed of Ahab. Jehoshaphat, as daughter of one king, sister of another and high priest's wife, was familiar with every nook and corner of the temple, and "so a woman's ruthlessness was outwitted by a woman's cunning."—Farmer. Thus God saved the seed of David according to his Word (Psalms 89:3, 4).

2. Conspiracy, vv. 4-8. Athaliah's bloody reign is one of the darkest pages in the history of Judah. She murdered not her own children but her grandchildren to gain, or rather to continue, her rule, for as her son's counselor she was the real ruler of the nation (II Kings 8:26, 27; II Chron. 22:1, 4). God had made a promise (ch. 8:19; Isa. 7:9; Jer. 33:17-26) and that promise must be fulfilled, for no evil can thwart his will. Athaliah is a terrible example of unrestrained heredity. We have here the results of an unholy alliance. This is also an appalling example of the evil of selfish ambition: (a) upon the nation, (b) on the family, (c) on the individual.

As against this picture we see a consecrated woman, a devoted home and the teaching of a pious priest, the final outcome of which was the overthrow of evil. This child and his wife took certain other traits Joash inherited from his vile ancestors, such as courage, energy, skill and perseverance, and training them under right and pious environment, turned them to the blessing of the nation. The early formative period of this boy's life was thus spent in such a way as to result in continuous blessing throughout his reign (12:1, 2). Jehoiada, knowing Athaliah, proceeded with great caution in his plan, but he must have known the readiness of the people to respond (II Chron. 23:1-5). Having chosen his men, he appeals to their loyalty to God, their faith in him and his Word, and covenanted them in God's house and in his very presence (v. 4). He also gave explicit directions (v. 5). Even so the Word is our guide (Psalms 119:11).

3. Crowning, vv. 9-12 (Is. v. 19). It was a great service the priest and his wife rendered to Judah to save and to train a child. So likewise we are privileged, and those who are truly saved and rightly trained will also ultimately be crowned (II Tim. 4:8; I Peter 5:14; Rev. 2:10).

There are two accounts of the coronation ceremonies (see also II Chron. 23:10-23, 21); they differ but do not conflict. The five captains and 500 bodyguards wrought a great work on that Sabbath day. Every man in the conspiracy did exactly as told. Joash is brought out at the exact moment. So also will our king appear at God's appointed time. The law is placed in his hands (v. 12, Ex. 25:16; Pa. 78:5; Isa. 8:16, 20). This controversy those who would have us believe the law was not written until Joash reigned. Aside from the law which was placed in his hands a crown was placed on his head and there was also the customary shouting and clapping of hands and cries of "God save the king" (Am. R. V.) which accompany such occasions. The noise of the ceremonies reached the ears of Athaliah and she rushed into the court of the temple. Looking upon the scene she cried "Treason! Treason!" Jehoiada directed the guard to open ranks and let her, without attendants, pass through to the palace, outside of the temple, where she was slain.

IV. Conclusion. (1) Our Young Kings (and Queens). For everyone of our boys and girls there is awaiting a kingdom. Each is surrounded by dangers even as Joash. Their only safety is in God, in the love and power of his holy spirit, the knowledge of his word, the care and culture of his church, the guidance and influence of homes which belong to him.

(2) The Bible and the Coronation. The chief and most important part of the coronation was to place the word of God in the young king's hand. "Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee."

The best book in the best place for the best possible use.

It is the royal law, life, lively oracles, food, light and wisdom for king and subject alike.

(3) The Anointed King. Symbolically Joash received the holy spirit that he might know how and have power to live and govern by the law just placed in his hands. (I Sam. 10:16; 16:13; Acts 4:27; Heb. 1:9).

Such anointed ones are kings and queens and their reigns are a benediction to all the world.

(4) The Eclipse of Evil.

The one who was most guilty, who took the sword that she might rule, was the first to cry treason.

Her cry could not any longer hold back the purposes of God and she miserably perished.

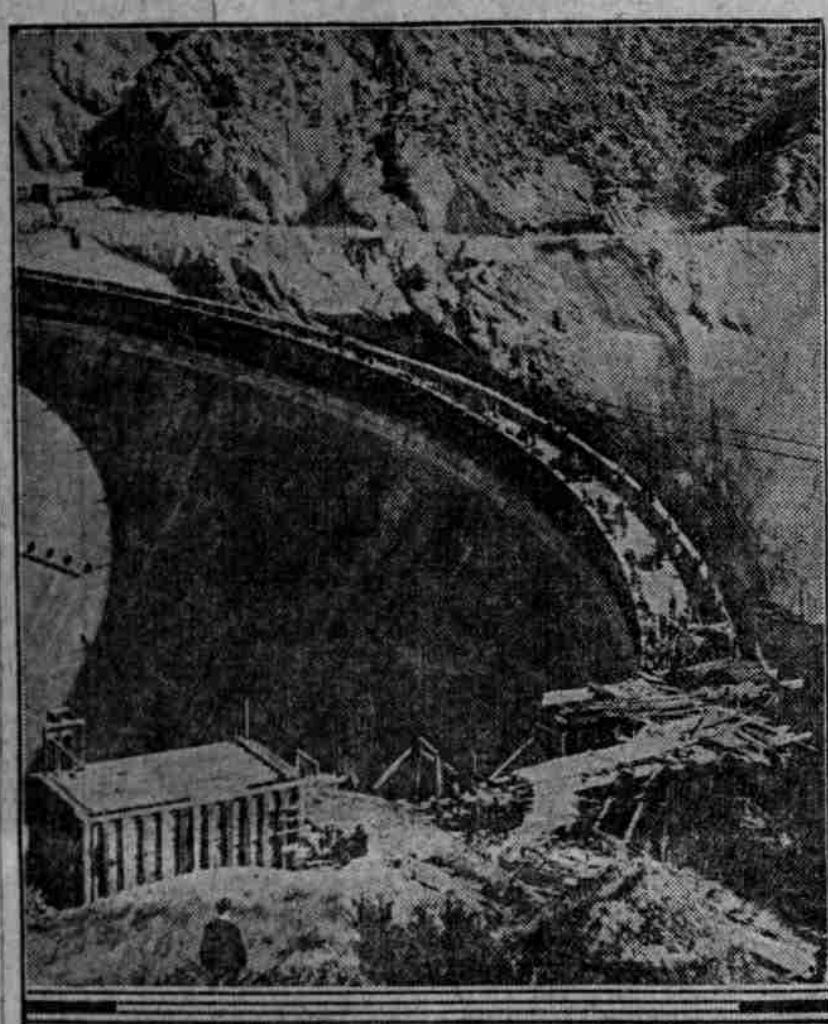
Those who expect God to withhold forever his judgments while they pursue their pleasures or seek to accomplish their selfish and devilish ambitions will one day awaken to realize the fact that he keeps his word. (Prov. 1:24-31; Rom. 2:8; Col. 3:25; Heb. 10:26-31; 12:25).

EXCHANGING BADLY WOUNDED WAR PRISONERS



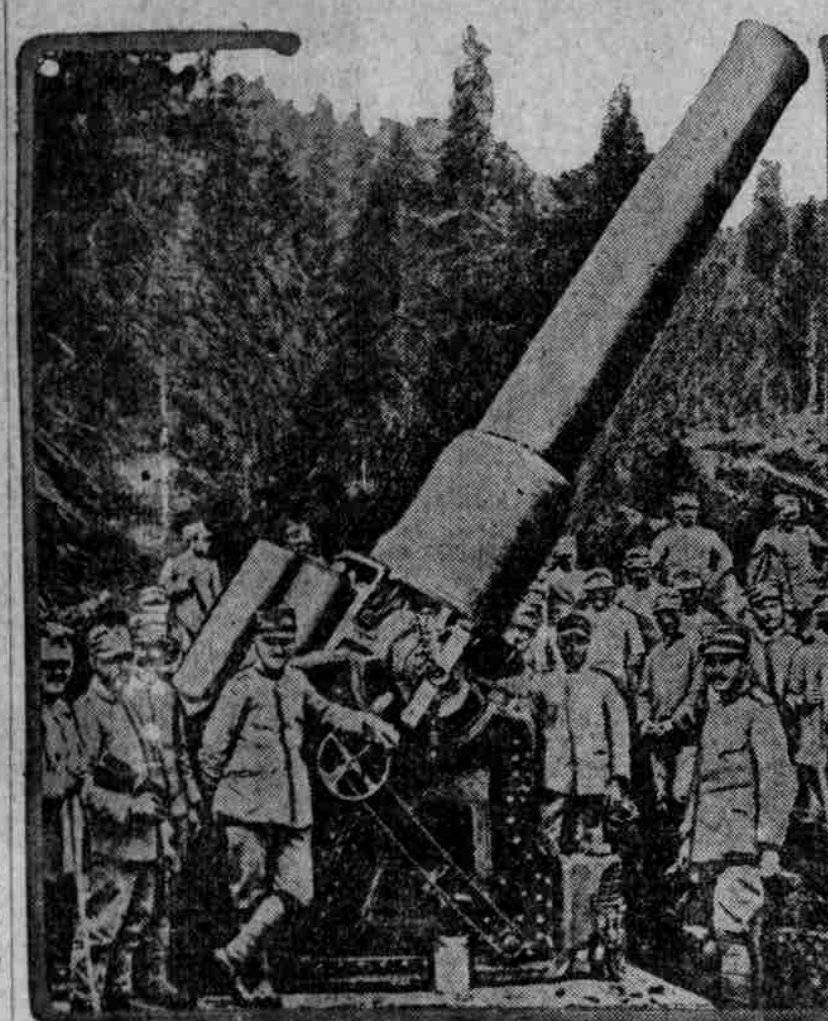
Through the good offices of Sweden, an arrangement has been concluded between Germany and Russia by which the severely wounded soldiers imprisoned in these two countries, who are crippled for life, are exchanged via Sweden. The exchange station is at Tornen on the gulf of Bothnia, where the Russian and Swedish frontiers meet. At regular intervals Russian and German nurses arrive here with their wounded charges. The Swedish nurses aid the work by taking charge of the cripples while the exchange is being effected. The picture at the top shows the German prisoners leaving the hospital at Tornen after their exchange, to cross over into Sweden. The lower photograph shows the Russian war prisoners leaving the train to go to the hospital.

HIGHEST DAM IN WORLD DEDICATED



The Arrowrock dam, the highest in the world, was formally dedicated recently at Boise, Idaho, and one of the largest irrigation projects in the country was added to agricultural America. The total area of the land to be reclaimed is 245,000 acres. The dam is of solid concrete, 351 feet high, 1,100 feet long and 240 feet thick at the base.

ITALIAN BIG GUN IN THE ALPS



One of the heavy guns with which the Italians have been battering the Austrian fortifications in the Tyrolean Alps. Elevated to an angle of 45 degrees, it can drop a shell with accuracy some fifteen miles away.

GATHERED FACTS.

In some parts of Germany alcohol is being made from cherry root.

Cars have been designed for an electric railroad in Ireland, to be run by gasoline electric generators.

New York produces more than half of the tale in the United States, with Vermont in second place.

Florida and Georgia together contributed 97 per cent of the quantity and value of the fuller's earth marketed in 1912.

Among the new fish in New York's aquarium is the batfish, with a head like a bat and two large fins used for walking on the bottom of the sea; also a gag fish, which gasps so for breath that it seems as though every moment would be its last. It is said that heretofore few sober men have beheld either of these creatures.

There are 20,000 French priests in the fighting line of France, including four bishops. Many priests have won the legion of honor or the military medal, and many others have been cited in the orders of the day of the army for marked gallantry.

In Norway it has been found that while meat, vast quantities of which have formerly been thrown away, makes a palatable and nutritious sausage. The meat has proved so successful for this purpose in Scandinavian countries that engineers are now working to develop machinery for cutting up the huge leviathans and working their carcasses into sausages.

A burro, in the Sierrita forest, Oregon, has acquired the habit of chewing tobacco, and even shows a delicate taste in the brands he prefers.

Scientists have figured that about 36,000,000 babies are born each year, or at the rate of about 70 a minute.

The Rev. J. Wesley Miller of Bethel, Vt., has carried 100 couples in the last 12 years, and not one of these has been divorced.

It will never do to talk about the "New West." Dr. Charles D. Walcott says that near Helena, Mont., are found the oldest animal remains now known, and also the oldest authentic vegetable remains. Some years ago he discovered the remains of crablike animals, suggesting in form fresh water crabs found the world over.

Post-Prandial Oratory Kills. A Long Island man laughed himself to death the other day at the witty speeches at a political dinner; but this is one ailment that will never become epidemic.—Boston Transcript.

IN NEW SUFFRAGE HAT



Miss Alberta Hill, a prominent suffrage worker of New York, wearing the new hat designed for the "votes for women" advocates. It is of felt, trimmed with a band of suffrage colors.

All That Mattered.

A young countryman staying in a hotel commenced to write a letter and then went away, leaving it on the table. Another came in and, without thinking, took up the missive. He had it in his hand when the young man returned. "That's my letter, mister," he said fiercely. "Well, you can have it," was the reply. "Did you read it?" "No," that is, I glanced over a few lines of it and noticed that hardly a word was spelled correctly. "It is to my girl—the girl I'm going to marry." "Yes?" "And I don't care a coked hat about the spelling. What I want to impress on that girl is lux—lux—lots of it, for there's a farm and seventy cows coming to her!"

Asbestos of Great Value.

Asbestos is a potential life-saver. Its incombustibility and its fibrous structure make it one of the most useful minerals—for such it is—for many and various purposes. Nearly every theater curtain is now made of asbestos. Though it primarily is of rock substance it is converted into soft and pliable condition, as easy to work with as cotton or wool. The material is used in making lumber, roofing, plaster and stucco. Aside from its incombustibility, asbestos has another virtue in its power as a non-conductor, and persons living in a house wherein asbestos forms a part of the material are assured of comfort in extreme heat or cold.

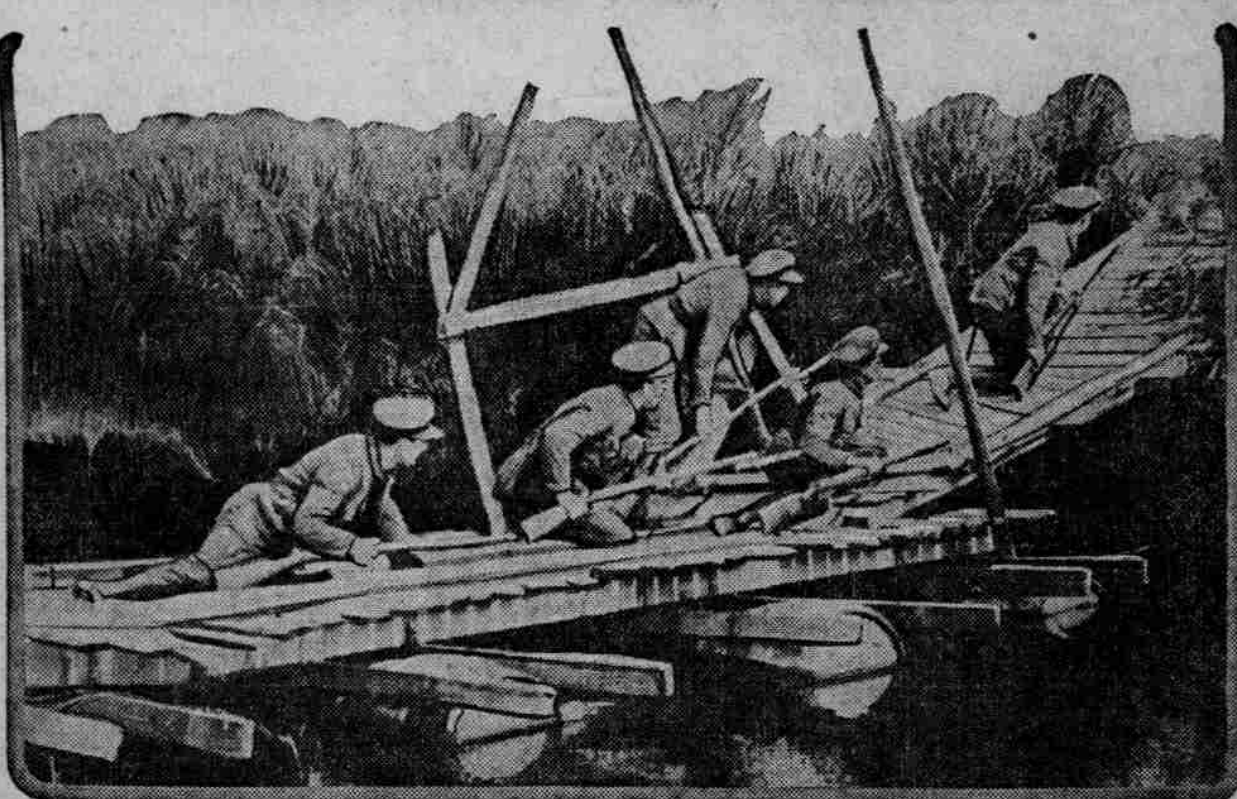
Rings of Ancient Rome.

In Rome, at the signing of the marriage contract, there was a great feast, and the man gave the woman a ring, which she put on her left hand, on the finger next to the smallest, for the Romans held that there was a nerve running directly from this finger to the heart. This ring was at first of iron or copper with little projections in the shape of a key to suggest that the wife had possession of her husband's keys. Later these rings became very much more costly and elaborate.

Nuns Invented Artificial Flowers. Artificial flowers were invented by nuns in Italy. In the Italian convents the altars and shrines were, up to the end of the eighteenth century, decorated with artificial flowers, laboriously and ingeniously put together, made of paper, parchment and wire.

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BELGIAN SCOUTING PARTY IN FLANDERS



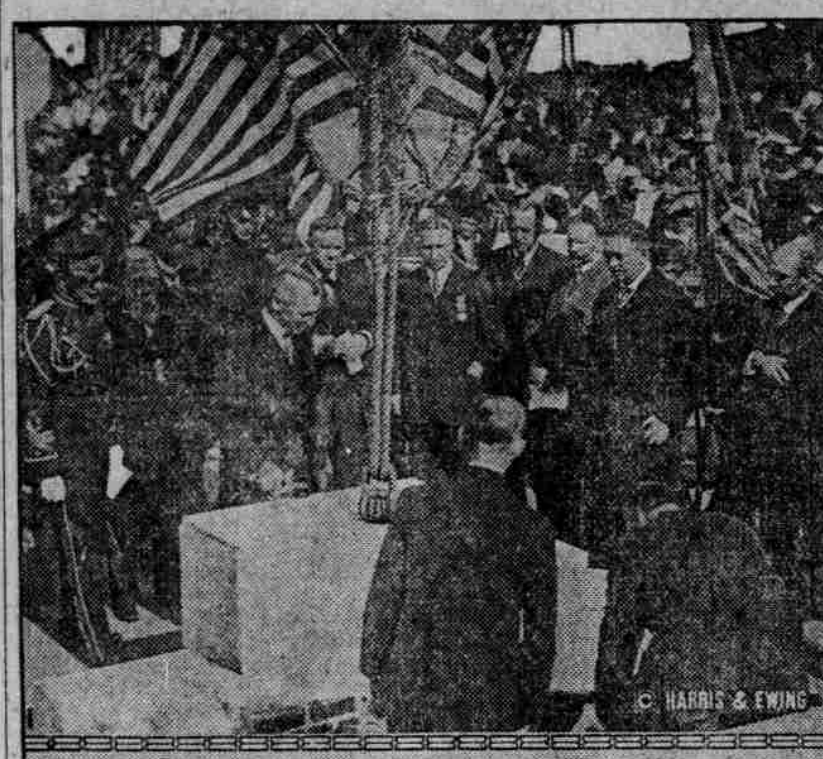
Here is a Belgian scouting party dressed in khaki uniform making its way stealthily over a pontoon bridge "somewhere" in Flanders.

INSPECTING ENGLISH GIRL GUARDS



Following the lead of the Boy Scouts, the girlhood of England is organizing into companies known as Girl Guards. These little women are taught rudimentary household and social welfare facts which will be of use to them and their country when they grow up. The picture shows the duchess of Marlborough (in white at left) inspecting the Guard of Honor of the First Harrow company at Harrow, England.

PRESIDENT WILSON LAYS CORNERSTONE



President Wilson is shown in the accompanying picture officiating at the cornerstone laying exercises at the huge memorial amphitheater now being built in Arlington National cemetery as a tribute to the heroes of the Civil war.

BELGRADE'S FORTRESS WALL SHATTERED



The effect of heavy artillery fire on the walls of a fort is well shown in this photograph of part of the fortress of Belgrade after it had been shelled by the Austro-German guns.

BRIEF INFORMATION

Berlin scientists have invented a nourishing yeast, containing more than 50 per cent albumen, prepared from sugar and ammonium sulphate.

Queen Alexandra of England, who recently celebrated her seventieth anniversary, is showing a great interest in the war, especially in the fortunes of the officers at the front whom she has known personally. If they return wounded she visits them in the hospitals.

Experiments have shown that the Chinese wood oil tree, from the nut of which an oil used in varnishes is obtained, can be successfully grown in northern Florida.

The report of the first census is contained in an octavo volume of 56 pages. Nowadays, in a decade, the census bureau issues 100 or more quarto volumes with more than 40,000 pages.

Flies do not breathe through their mouths, but through holes in their bodies. Their eyes are made up of 4,000 facets. Flies are able to carry from 60 to 70 times their own weight.

Children may not be seen in the streets of Bergen, Norway, after a certain hour, which varies with the season. The church bells of the town peal a signal for them to return home, and the police see to it that they obey.

James Thomas Ross, a famous English "fence," has been sentenced to three years' imprisonment. Before the authorities discovered his real occupation he passed as an eminently respectable manufacturer of muffins.

Although there is no written history of the earliest bulk oil carrier, the Chinese Newchang Junk, originally built for the carriage of water in bulk, and afterward used for oil, must be among the earliest examples of this class of vessel.

The Hohenzollern fortune, which totaled \$5,000,000 when the great-grandfather of the present kaiser died, is now estimated at seven times that figure. Eighteen months ago the kaiser paid a military tax of \$265,000.

Canada's population now exceeds 5,000,000, according to a recent estimate from Ottawa.

WOMEN MAKING SHELLS



In the ammunition factories of France as well as of England women have largely taken the place of men. One of them is here seen working on shells that are not yet bored.

Always Working Hard.

James Keir Hardie, the British labor leader, whose death is announced, never relinquished his working-class garb, and many were the occasions when his rough attire led to mistakes on the part of others. One story is that Keir Hardie, then many years an M. P., was challenged by a policeman outside the house of commons. The officer asked Mr. Hardie if he was working there. "Yes," "On the roof?" (which was undergoing repair). "No," answered the leader of the independent labor party, "on the floor."

Another time a landlady refused to let him have rooms until he gave references—he looked too rough. The good woman was astonished when Mr. Hardie named a number of the most prominent men in commons. He was arrested in Belgium a few years ago on suspicion of being in collusion with a notorious anarchist whom the police had detained. The Belgian police never could understand why a British M. P. was not elaborately attired.

Loud-Speaking Telephone.

In England there has appeared a new telephone device which renders possible the summoning of a subscriber back to the telephone after he has been asked to "hold the wire" while the party at the other end is looking up some desired information. The device is in reality a loud-speaking horn. If the subscriber called does not wish to hold the receiver to his ear, he can place it over the horn and go about his duties. The calling party's voice is so amplified that he may be heard throughout a room.

Easily Explained.

"How ridiculous some of our forms of speech are! Here's a notice of the Jaggs which says they took up their residence in the suburbs. How could they take up a residence?" "Easy."

They've got one of these portable nooses."

—Baltimore American.

Worthy of All Praise.

Blessed are the happy makers! Blessed are they that remove their hands, that make the courses of life smooth, and the intercourse of men gentle.—Henry Ward Beecher.

Going It Too Hard

We are inclined nowadays to "go it too hard," to overwork, worry, eat and drink too much, and to neglect our rest and sleep. This fills the blood with uric acid. The kidneys weaken and then it's a siege of backache, dizzy, nervous spells, rheumatic pains and distressing urinary disorders. Don't wait for worse troubles. Strengthen the kidneys. Use Doan's Kidney Pills.

An Ohio Case

Cesar Fagan, resident of St. Clairsville, Ohio, writes: "My back ached constantly, keeping me from sleeping. I had awful headaches and dizzy spells and my kidneys were irregular in action. During one attack I was unable to get into bed and the doctor was unable to relieve me. Someone suggested Doan's Kidney Pills and they restored me to good health. I gained in weight and was rid of all the ailments."

Get Doan's at Any Store, or a Box DOAN'S KIDNEY PILLS FOSTER-MILBURN CO., BUFFALO, N. Y.

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fail. Purely vegetable—act surely but gently on the liver. Stop after dinner—cure indigestion, improve the complexion, brighten the eyes. SMALL PILL, SMALL DOSE, SMALL PRICE. Genuine must bear Signature.

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